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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1943 No. 10

Equivalent to an all-out Victory

COLONEL FRANK KNOX

THE outcome of the Moscow Conference is equivalent to an all-out victory in either the Asiatic or the European War

THE Moscow outcome will do more to unite the Allies and undermine the enemy—both German and Japanese—than anything that has happened in a long time

COLONEL FRANK KNOX, *United States Navy Secretary, at a Press Conference in Washington on Tuesday (November 2)*

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WE ARE PUNCHING THE JAPANESE ON THE NOSE

"I am convinced that the Japanese will fight for every inch of territory remaining in his grasp in New Guinea. He is increasing his strength here every day—building up steadily by reinforcements. He will not cut his losses and run. He will fight all the way back. It is going to be tough at Finschhafen. The Japanese have dug in their toes and fought every yard and it is not all over there yet. The Japanese have realized that this is the most important threat and they are meeting it with the stoutest resistance. We are punching them on the nose at every opportunity. The Ramu valley campaign was a complete success. These valleys are particularly suitable for exploitation as airfields and the fullest use is being made of this geographical fact."

—GENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY, *the Commander of the Allied Forces, said on Wednesday, 3rd November.*

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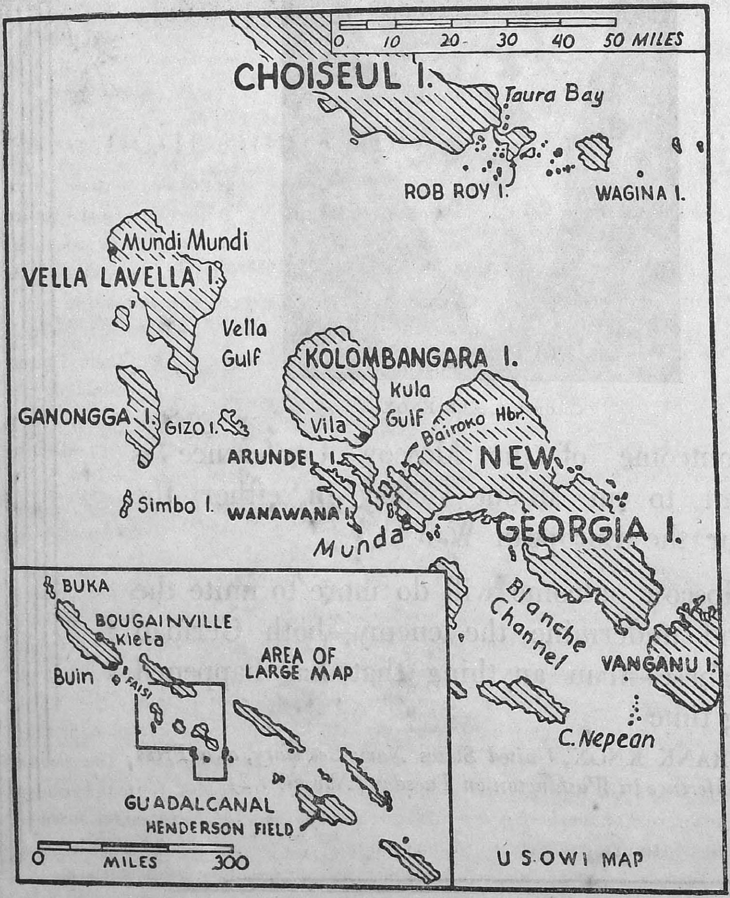

TOWARDS THE HEART OF JAPAN

"The invasion of Bougainville, the greatest venture in South-western Pacific, is a major step towards the heart of Japan. You cannot measure in mere miles the advance we have thus made towards our ultimate objective, Tokyo."

—ADMIRAL HALSEY, *Commander-in-Chief of the United States Naval Forces in the Southern Pacific, said on Wednesday, 3rd November.*

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THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE: A radio picture of Mr. Anthony Eden talking to M. Molotov soon after arrival at the Moscow Airport for the Tripartite Conference.

"The Magna Carta of Our Generation"

THE Moscow Conference on which the eyes of the whole world, particularly of the Axis countries, were centred during the last few days, has concluded, and an agreement of far-reaching importance to the future of world peace has been reached. A high authority in Washington said: "No one could have asked for a more complete understanding. This is the Magna Carta of our generation. By these agreements four great Powers have taken concerted action to make the post-war world something more than a dream in men's minds." The Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. T. V. Soong, has enthusiastically welcomed the Moscow declaration which "not only provides for common action during the war, but also gives evidence of their (United Nations') firm determination to ensure collective security thereafter." He also refers to the realization of a long-cherished dream. He says, "Credit must be given to Mr. Eden, Mr. Hull and Mr. Molotov, who may well prove to be instruments bringing the dream of the age nearer to fruition." Perhaps the best estimate of the results of the Tripartite talks so far comes from Colonel Frank Knox. The United States Navy Secretary said at a press conference in Washington on Tuesday, "The outcome of the Moscow Conference is equivalent to an all-out victory in either the Asiatic or the European war."

A Great Victory

THIS great international political victory must have caused serious heartburn to Nazi leaders in Germany and their counterparts in the Far East. They tried their best to create differences and dissensions between the Allies, but without any effect. They wanted to frighten Europe by the "Bolshevik bogey," but all that they succeeded in doing was to bring about closer co-ordination and co-operation among the Allies. The other aims of Berlin in this propaganda blitz may be stated to be twofold. Firstly, it was thought that such propaganda will spur the German people on to greater effort in the war against Russia. The second aim was to create a strong impression in the minds of the people of occupied Europe that German tyranny was to be preferred to the liberating role of the Red Army. It was thought that the Nazis might succeed in realizing at least one aim, that of strengthening their own home front. But recent reports from neutral sources show that this is not the case. A spirit of defeatism seems to be spreading all over Germany. *Reuter's* Special Correspondent in Stockholm says that the home front in Germany is in a state of progressive disintegration and that an all-pervading apathy is for the moment the most characteristic symptom of German

[*See overleaf*

demoralization. The Nazi retreat in Russia admitted in the German press and the bombings of German towns and military objectives seem to have further depressed the people. Perhaps the most depressing effect must have been produced by the success of the Moscow meeting, not so much on the German people as on their leaders.

Russia's First Aim

AS regards the peoples of the occupied countries, they have generally known that it is not Germany but the Allies who will bring them their freedom. Two years ago (November 6, 1941), M. Stalin made an announcement which is a clear guarantee of freedom. He said, "Russia's first aim is to free the enslaved peoples of Europe, and then to allow them to decide their own fate without any outside interference in their internal affairs." One of the most important decisions of the Moscow Conference is that which declares the annexation of Austria by Germany on March 15, 1938, null and void. Austria was the very first country to fall a victim to Nazi aggression, and it was in the fitness of things that the Moscow Conference should declare first its desire to re-establish a free and independent Austria.

REFERRING to the importance of this declaration, *Reuter's* Special Correspondent says that it has profound military significance, as an assault on Austria may well be the first unified military campaign of the three nations. If this analysis is correct, the appeal to Austria to assist in her own liberation may be the first preliminary sortie. The appeal itself seems to have already had some effect in Austrian circles. The Executive of the Free Austrian Movement, in a statement, says that the Moscow declaration places on the Austrian people an obligation to intensify resistance and to unleash the people's war of liberation from the rear of the German front. A general and widespread resurgence of popular feeling in favour of the Allies would, as the correspondent says, be the final straw for Hitler and would mark the complete disintegration of the European fortress.

To Shorten the War against Germany

WHETHER the next military move is against Austria, which has been feeling the lash of Allied air power effectively or against the Balkan countries, which have been in a state of continued unrest at the prospect of an Allied invasion, or against Norway or some other country under the Axis heel of oppression, cannot of course be foreseen—or foretold. But one thing is clear : the Conference has taken some momentous decisions to shorten the war against Germany and her satellites in Europe. The main task before the Conference was to strike the weapon of time from Hitler's hand and achieve victory in the shortest possible time, and it will be seen in the near future how far the decisions reached to gain the Allied objective would hasten the end of the war.

ANOTHER great achievement of the Conference was that Allied unity pledged for the prosecution of the war should be continued for the organization and maintenance of peace and security. In the words of the communique :

> "Second only to the importance of hastening the end of the war was the recognition by the three Governments that it was essential, in their own national interests and in the interests of all peace-loving nations, to continue the present close collaboration and co-operation in the conduct of the war into the period following the end of hostilities, and that only in this way could peace be maintained, and the political, economic and social welfare of the people fully promoted."

IT was particularly with regard to post-war problems that some doubts were felt whether the Allies would closely co-operate with one another. Axis propaganda was laying emphasis on the point that Britain and America would not be able to co-operate with Russia in tackling problems of peace, but all doubts have been set at rest by the Moscow Agreement. "I am certain," said Mr. Anthony Eden, "that we have laid down the basis for a future peace structure and created an international machinery without which many of our desires would remain but good intentions."

THE necessary machinery for close co-operation has been established by the appointment of a European Advisory Commission in London to make joint recommendations, and provision has also been made for continuing the tripartite consultations in Washington, London or Moscow. Thus every precaution has been carefully taken to preserve and maintain the great unity reached in Moscow on problems of war and peace.

IT may be stated that the Moscow Agreement, which has been welcomed with great satisfaction all over the Allied world is the culmination of a process of unity, of which the first two great and tangible results were the Anglo-Soviet Treaty and the Atlantic Charter. The Moscow declaration may well be recognized, as a Magna Carta, not only of this generation, but also of generations yet to come.

Madras gunners were specially chosen for the distinction of firing the Viceregal salute to mark the arrival of Lord Wavell, the departure of Lord Linlithgow and the swearing in of the new Viceroy. Photo shows a Madras unit of the Indian Artillery which shared this distinction.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Famine-stricken Greece—The King's Appeal for Help—Madras forms Relief Committee

His Majesty GEORGE II, King of the Hellenes, has issued an appeal to the people of India, from the Greek Legation in Cairo last week. He recalls the cowardly and unprovoked assault on Greece by Italy three years ago, and says, "The world remembers that, for six months, the little army of Greece held the Axis enemy and, in fact, drove him back to the mountains of Albania. Only with the aid of the full might of the German war machine was gallant Greece overrun." His Majesty refers to the effects of Axis occupation and how Greece is slowly starving to death with famine and disease stalking everywhere within her borders. In his moving appeal for help, the Greek King says, "For the sake of the mothers and wives, and particularly of the children of those men who so courageously fought, and are still fighting, the invaders, I appeal to you in India to give all the help you can to get food, cloths and medicines for Greece urgently." In response to this appeal a representative and influential committee has been formed in Madras under the patronage of His Excellency Sir ARTHUR HOPE, Governor of Madras, to collect funds for the relief of the Greek civilian population, particularly the children who have suffered most. All donations should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Greek Relief Appeal, "Dare House," Esplanade, Madras, or to the Honorary Treasurer, Madras Governor's War Fund (Greek Relief). The amounts so collected will ultimately be placed at the disposal of the King of Greece for the purchase of medicine, clothing, etc., which will be sent to Greece through the International Red Cross under the International Agreement supervised by a committee appointed by the neutral Governments of Switzerland and Sweden.

The Greek nation to-day seems to be faced with a threat of extermination. Soon after the occupation of Greece, the Germans and the Italians systematically looted the foodstuffs, seeds and livestock of the people. Not only was there not enough left to feed the population day by day, but also there was no hope of buying or growing food for the future. The inevitable result was the outbreak of famine, and in its wake followed disease and death. An authoritative estimate says that half a million people, out of a total population of 6,250,000 Greeks, have died of starvation. If relief measures are not undertaken on a large scale, well-informed observers express the opinion that the Greeks as a nation may be exterminated. We hope that the appeal for help from a great and gallant nation will have a generous response at the hands of all Indians who believe that the freedom of the world depends on the annihilation of Axis aggression.

* * * * *

Metaxas says 'No' to Italian Ultimatum—Greece's Gallant Resistance

The story of the gallant resistance of the Greeks is one of the most interesting and thrilling episodes of this war. It began on October 28, 1940. The Greek Prime Minister, METAXAS, received a telephone call at 3 a.m. on that day. "This is the French Minister speaking. I must see you at once." But it was the Italian Minister, GRAZZI, who spoke disguising his voice. The Greek statesman awakened at that unusual hour, came down in his dressing gown and opened the door, only to receive the representative of MUSSOLINI who had come to blackmail him with a three-hour ultimatum demanding free passage for Italian troops to certain strategic points in Greece. Just a few hours earlier, GRAZZI had given a grand dinner party to distinguished Greeks at which Italian and Greek flags, intertwined, adorned the walls. Toasts were drunk pledging Italy's eternal friendship to Greece. Eternal friendship indeed! Long before the cock crew, the pledge was broken. It was broken when GRAZZI threatened METAXAS with the ultimatum. The Greek statesman gave a firm and decisive 'No' to all

the Italian demands. At 6 a.m. on that day Italian troops crossed the Greek frontier, and Greece was dragged into the war.

The Greek people, irrespective of party or political attachments, all rallied under the banner of General METAXAS who had previously tided over Greece's greatest internal political crisis in 1936. There were then two opposing parties in the State based upon old differences between the policy of Venizelos and that of the Royalists. The results of the general election that year brought about an electoral deadlock. The Venizelos party had a majority of one over the Royalists. There was a small Communist group consisting of about a dozen members in a House of 300. Neither party would co-operate with the Communists with a view to getting a decent majority. Ultimately, the Constitution had to be suspended, and General METAXAS was appointed President of the Council in August 1936 with dictatorial powers.

When the war broke out, METAXAS decided to keep Greece out of dangerous entanglements by a policy of cautious neutrality. At the same time, he wanted to strengthen the armed might of Greece, and so brought about a considerable measure of military reorganization and reform. Several years earlier, General PANGALOS had inaugurated certain technical reforms which helped METAXAS to bring about a high state of efficiency in the Greek Army, Navy and Air Force.

* * * * *

Italy invades Greece—National Unity against Common Enemy

In the early summer of 1940, Italy began a war of nerves against Greece. The Italian press had, for some months past, been accusing Greece of giving encouragement to rebels in Albania. This was the pretext for Italy to mass troops in Albania on the Greek frontier. On August 15th the Italians deliberately torpedoed a Greek cruiser, the *Helle*, at Tenos in the Aegean Sea. This incident brought about a complete cessation of political rivalries and partisan feelings in Greece against the METAXAS regime. There was tremendous enthusiasm in the country, never before seen since the days of the successful War of Independence a century ago, in which BYRON lost his life.

It was therefore no wonder that the courageous and determined Greek troops were able to resist the Italians and inflict on them, as we said earlier, the first Axis defeat of an Axis army during the present war. The Italian offensive opened by an attack across the southern Albanian frontier into the north-western Greek province of Epirus, but it was hurled back into Albania. Though the Italians far outnumbered the Greeks, they were forced to fight throughout the winter in the snow and mud of the Albanian mountains. But their ejection from Greece within a month of their first attack, could not, by the very nature of things, be of a final character, for the Germans came later on. They could not allow Italy to suffer such a disaster; it was not to their interest. So they sent their troops to Rumania in January 1941. These troops established themselves on the Bulgarian frontier, and on March 1, with the connivance and agreement of the Bulgarians, they crossed the Danube.

Greece was in a difficult position. Practically the whole of her army was in the north-west resisting the Italians in Albania, and she had not much strength to protect her right flank, the Greek-Bulgarian frontier. So Greece appealed to Great Britain for help on March 4, 1941.

* * * * *

"Open Letter to Hitler"—Tribute to British Help and Sacrifice

It was four days later (March 8) that GEORGE VLACHOS, the great Greek journalist, published in his paper *Kathimerini* his famous "Open Letter to ADOLF HITLER," which is referred to by STANLEY CASSON in his book *Greece Against the Axis* as "the most sombre and solemn document that the war has produced," and "the most blasting condemnation of modern Germany that has yet been written." Referring to the Germans coming to the rescue of the Italians, GEORGE VLACHOS said, "Will not the whole world shou[t] that forty-five millions of Italians after having attacked our poor eight millions have now to call for help to another eighty-five millions?" As for British help to Greece, he wrote—

"It is not we, Your Excellency, who made the English come to Greece. It was the Italians. And now you wish us to say farewell to those whom the Italians brought here. So be it. Let us say it. But to whom? To the living. But how can we throw out the dead? Those who died on the mountains. Those who, wounded, fell to earth in Attica and drew there their last breath. Those who at a time when their own country was in flames came to Greece and fought there, died there, and there found their graves. Listen, Your Excellency, there are deeds which cannot be done in Greece, and that is one of them. We cannot throw out either the living or the dead. We will throw out no one, but we shall stand here upright by their side, until the day when the sunshine breaks through the storm."

The closing paragraph of the "Open Letter" is one of the most moving passages in all literature. It says—

"What would your army do, Your Excellency, if instead of horse and artillery we sent to receive them on the frontier our twenty-thousand wounded in their bloody bandages? But no, that cannot be. Small or great, the free army of Greeks will stand in Thrace as they have stood in Epirus. There they will await the return from Berlin of that runner who came five years ago and lit his torch at Olympia. We shall see this torch light a fire, a fire to lay waste this country small in size but now made great, which has taught all other nations how to live, and will now teach them how to die."

* * * * *

We have interrupted our narrative to quote this passage of great beauty to show how great was the spirit of resistance of the Greek people. The rest of the story is soon told. Great Britain sent all the help she could to the land of Demosthenes and Pericles, but it was all of no use. The situation worsened, as the Jugoslav Government which reiterated its declaration of neutrality on the outbreak of the Italo-Greek War, made a pact with the Germans on March 25. The pact did not save Jugoslavia; it was overrun by German troops in a few days. On April 10, Salonika fell, and the German troops contacted British positions. Then the Greek troops in Albania were cut off from the rest, and arrival of reinforcements to the Germans forced the British army to withdraw to Thermopylae, the battle-field of centuries gone by, with a view to defending at least southern Greece. But this could not be. So the British forces decided to evacuate Greece and most of them were out of it by April 28, 1941. The evacuation of the Greek island of Crete by British forces was completed on May 31. The Swastika flag of slavery was hoisted on April 27 on the Acropolis of Athens—Athens, the City State of ancient Greece where democracy was born and freedom was cherished as *the* way of human life.

* * * * *

Greece's Contribution to the War—Debt that can Never be Redeemed

It may be felt that, after all, the great resistance of the Greeks was of no avail. But this is not correct. For, as DAVID WALKER says, "Had Greece not fought and died, the Germans might now be in both Cairo and Moscow." Greece gave the world time,—six very valuable months—and it may be said without any exaggeration that Greek resistance has affected the whole course of the war in favour of the United Nations. It was the use of Greek bases that helped Britain to cripple the Italian Air Force and inflict a crushing blow on the Italian Navy at Taranto and Cape Matapan, and it was Greek resistance that gave Britain time to send reinforcements to the Middle East.

If Greece had bowed, let the Fascist legions thunder past, and plunged in thought again, Germany would have helped RASHID ALI'S revolt in Iraq in time,

(*Continued on page* 13)

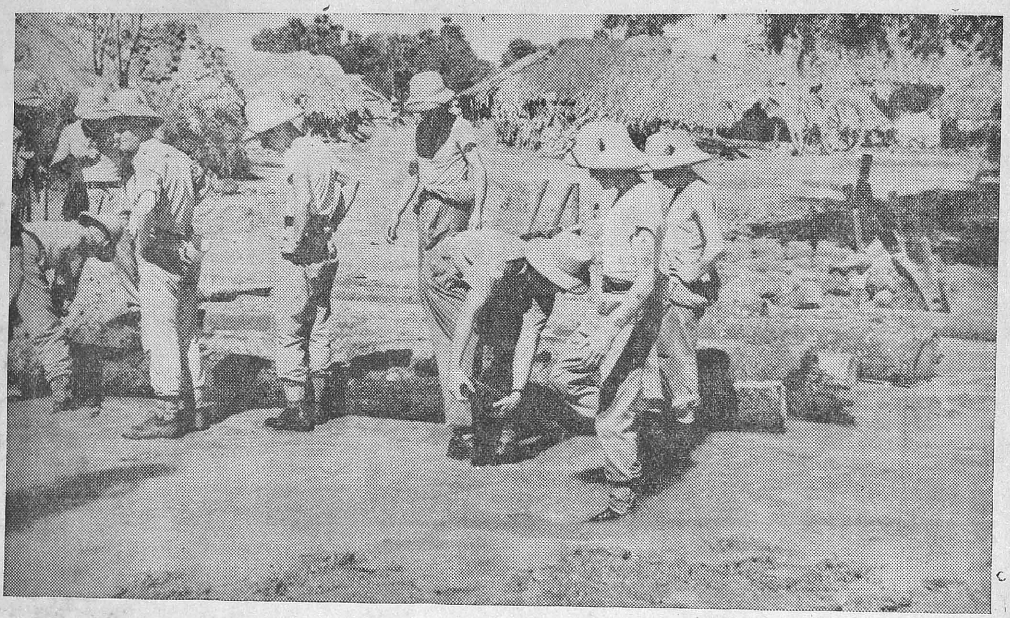
LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN IN CHUNGKING

Immediately after landing at Chungking, Lord Mountbatten is welcomed by General Ho Ying Chin.

With General Ho and other senior officers, Lord Mountbatten inspects the Guard-of-Honour at Chungking Air-Field on his arrival.

Sir Horace Seymour, British Ambassador in China says goodbye to Lord Mountbatten at the Air-Field.

FLOOD RELIEF WORK—SOLDIERS



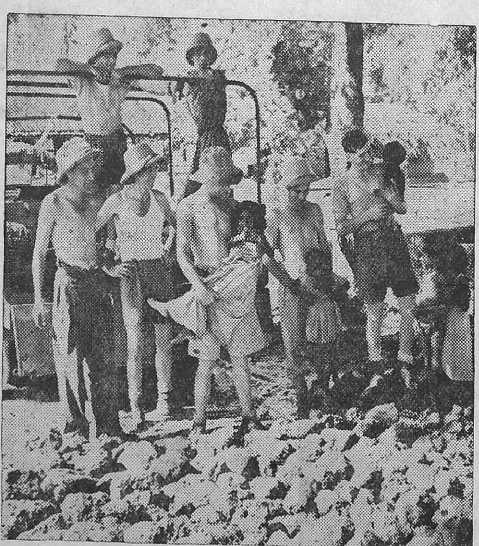
A press note issued by the Information Department of the Government of India, which was published on Tuesday, acknowledges the great work done by the Military during the recent floods in Madras. "The City of Madras," says the press note, "has witnessed with its own eyes how the men of the Indian Army stationed there, both British and Indian, could render effective relief to the stricken, homeless population." Continuing, the press note says: "The troops saved the lives of many marooned villagers, transported people from dangerous areas, rushed food to the outlying zones, and won the admiration of the people in every way."

Photo shows British soldiers placing logs of wood near a group of huts to withstand the "invasion" of the floods.

MADRAS FLOODS: HOW THE SOLDIERS DID THEIR PART

"WET but cheerful" characterised the attitude of the Army in the flooded areas around Madras.

Familiar with the prerogative of all soldiers from time immemorial to grumble at the inadequacy of the huts and tents which form their normal homes, Commanders were surprised to find them in high spirits after nights spent in far less accommodating quarters in tree-tops and water-logged lorries.



During the recent floods in and around the city, the military rendered valuable help. Here are a few soldiers with the children they helped out of their flooded houses.

But it was by no means all fun and diversion. Hard work under appalling conditions for thousands of men, British and Indian, ranker and officer, has provoked other names for the freak weather which experts choose to call a "cyclonic depression."

Soon after the onslaught hit the Madras area, local military Commanders had placed the services of many thousands of troops at the disposal of the civil authorities. The offer was put to good use.

Huge pipes which carry the City's water-supply were soon undermined by the overwhelming weight of flood water and began to sink. Sappers were called in and worked through the dark to help bolster up the sagging mains.

About fifty catamarans and a dozen boats and rafts from ships in the harbour were taken to the northern part of the City for the evacuation of stranded families. This work went on for 24 hours non-stop, the small craft manned by some hundred fishermen collected by the military in their lorries.

MILITARY LORRIES FOR CIVILIAN USE

Military lorries and lorries ear-marked for military traffic were turned over entirely to the civil authorities to help transport food from outlying areas into Madras.

Aerial reconnaissance was maintained all the time by the Royal Air Force to keep the essential services informed of the general situation. Outside Madras, extensive reconnaissance was carried out by military patrols to ascertain the extent of damage reported by the aerial observers.

A concerted plan was made by the civil and military Engineering authorities to ensure co-ordination of work on essential road points. Hundreds of picks and shovels, wielded by British and Indian troops, lightened the work of the Public Works Department employees in clearing road blocks and strengthening irrigation tank bunds.

At one stage, a rumour spread wildly through Madras that further floods were rapidly approaching the City to add to the waters already ten feet deep in places. A Civil Representative working with the Army immediately set off by car in the direction of the supposed danger, despite the fact that had the rumour been true his journey must have ended in disaster.

GIVE A HELPING HAND

A very important piece of relief work done by the military in Madras, which they alone could have done, was to rush food in military lorries to the outlying areas cut off by the floods. The spirit of comradeship between the military and the civilian population in Madras was further strengthened by the spontaneous and enthusiastic work done by men of the fighting services, British and Indian, in relieving the distress and suffering caused by the floods in the City. Photo shows a number of military cars and lorries engaged in the humanitarian work of rushing food to places where it was badly needed.

Contacting the military in the area concerned he was informed that all was well and that the situation, although anxious, was not grave. He raced back to Madras with this reassuring news.

OFFICERS' HOSTEL "INVADED"

An officers' hostel south of the City was "invaded" by about 5,000 inhabitants from villages in the surrounding lowland. The Woman's Auxiliary Corps (I) Officer-in-charge of the hostel waded out into the floods and torrential rain and stood waist-deep in water while she telephoned the local Military Commander for assistance. Assured that this would be forthcoming she waded back to give what immediate help she could.

Soon an Army truck, the first of six, the driver said, loomed up through the rain. It reached the throng and promptly sank to its axles in mud. A second truck arrived and proceeded to try to pull the first one out. The second one sank.

The Woman's Auxiliary Corps (I) Officer waded out to the telephone once more for further aid. When she returned the 5,000 had vanished. It was not a disaster. They had not been overwhelmed by rising waters. They had just vanished.

In one area, many men spent a night standing in lorries with water up to their necks—hoping and praying that it would rise no further. Fortunately it didn't.

Men of another unit spent the night in tree-tops and near by. Sappers put their assault boats to good use, carrying whomsoever they could to safer places and picking up those who had fallen by the wayside.

Many of the troops in this unit dived into the water with screw-drivers in their mouths and proceeded to salvage wireless sets and other delicate equipment from their lorries which lay invisible below the surface.

AIRCRAFT USED TO DROP SUPPLIES

In some places, aircraft were used to drop supplies to stranded civilians, while in an area north of Madras a party of troops, after effecting a successful rescue of some marooned villagers, did all in their power to find food, clothing and shelter for those who had lost everything.

The Army and the Air Force are taking the toil with amusing incidents in their stride, and there is one thing that the local population can be sure of at a moment of uncertainty such as at the present—if the troops can be of the slightest assistance anywhere, they will be there; wet through and possibly hungry; certainly sleepless; but eager to laugh in the worst of circumstances and prepared for any amount of slogging hard work.

A guardsman got separated from his unit in one of the worst parts of Tunisia. For days he wandered about without food or drink. In the end he found a British military post and tottered to it.

"Water ?" he gasped. "Water!"

It was brought, and he proceeded to blanco his belt!

* * * *

The Dutch radio station in London broadcast to the 300 000 Netherlanders at forced labour in Germany: "It takes a quarter of a minute to blow your nose. But to do it properly takes a full minute. If three hundred thousand men will frequently blow their noses, whether from necessity or not at the lowest estimate thousands of Hitler's working hours will be lost —only by blowing your nose."

An important part of the relief work consisted in levelling up places washed away by the floods. Our photo shows British soldiers with shovels in their hands gathering hardened earth and loading them in lorries.

THE MOSCOW AGREEMENT

The Governments of the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union arrived at an agreement on important matters relating to war and peace as the result of a conference held in Moscow from 19th to 30th October. The United Kingdom was represented by Mr. Anthony Eden, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the United States by Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, and the Soviet Union by M. Molotov, Commissar for Foreign Affairs. The terms of the Agreement which they signed on behalf of their respective Governments are given below.

MR. ANTHONY EDEN

THE Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R. and China; united in their determination in accordance with the declaration by the United Nations of January 1, 1942, and subsequent declarations to continue hostilities against those Axis powers with which they respectively are at war until such powers have laid down their aims on the basis of unconditonal surrender; conscious of their responsibility to secure the liberation of themselves and people allied to them from the menace of aggression; recognizing the necessity of ensuring rapid and orderly transit from the war to the peace and of establishing and maintaining international peace and security with the least diversion of their world's human and economic resources for armaments; jointly declare:

That their united action pledged for the prosecution of the war against their respective enemies will be continued for the organization and maintenance of the peace and security;

That those of them at war with the common enemy will act together in all matters relating to the surrender and disarmament of that enemy;

That they will take all measures deemed by them to be necessary to provide against any violation of the terms imposed on the enemy;

That they recognize the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organization, based on the principle of the sovereign quality of all peace-loving states and open to membership by all such states, large or small, for the maintenance of international peace and security;

That for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security, pending the re-establishment of law and order and the inauguration of a system of general security, they will consult with each other and with members of the United Nations with a view to joint action on behalf of the comity of nations;

That after the termination of hostilities, they will not employ their military forces with territories of other states except for purposes envisaged in this declaration after joint consultation; and

That they will confer and co-operate with one another and with other members of the United Nations to bring about a practicable general agreement with respect to the regulation of armaments in the post-war period.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS ITALY

The Foreign Secretaries of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union have established that their three Governments are in complete agreement that the Allied policy towards Italy must be based upon the fundamental principle that Fascism and all its evil influence and emanations shall be utterly destroyed and that the Italian people shall be given every opportunity to establish governmental and other institutions based upon democratic principles. The Foreign Secretaries of the United States and the United Kingdom declare that the action of their Governments from the inception of the invasion of Italian territory, in so far as paramount military requirements have permitted, has been based upon this policy.

The Secretaries of the three Governments are agreed that the following measures are important and should be put into effect:—

It is essential that the Italian Government should be made more democratic by the introduction of representatives of those sections of the Italian people who have always opposed Fascism.

Freedom of speech, of religious worship, of political belief, of press, and of public meeting shall be restored in full measure to the Italian people who shall also be entitled to form anti-Fascist political groups.

All institutions and organizations created by the Fascist regime shall be suppressed.

All Fascist or pro-Fascist elements shall be removed from the administration and from institutions and organizations of a public character.

All political prisoners of the Fascist regime shall be released and accorded full amnesty.

Democratic organs of local government shall be created.

Fascist chiefs and army generals, known or suspected to be war criminals, shall be arrested and handed over to justice.

MR. CORDELL HULL

In making this declaration the three Foreign Secretaries recognize that so long as active military operations continue in Italy, the time at which it is possible to give full effect to the principles set out above will be determined by the Commander-in-Chief on the basis of instructions received through the Combined Chiefs of Staff. The three governments who are parties to this declaration will at the request of any one of them consult on this matter. It is further understood that nothing in this resolution is to operate against the right of the Italian people ultimately to choose their own form of government.

AUSTRIAN INDEPENDENCE

The governments of the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States have agreed that Austria, the first country to fall a victim to Nazi aggression, shall be liberated from German domination. They regard the annexation imposed upon Austria by Germany's penetration of March 15, 1938, as null and void. They consider themselves as in no way bound by any changes effected in Austria since that date. They declare that they wish to see re-established a free and independent Austria, and thereby to open the way for the Austrian people themselves, as well as those neighbouring states which will be faced with similar problems, to find that political and economic security, which is the only basis for lasting peace. Austria is reminded, however, that she has a responsibility which she cannot evade for participation in the war on the side of Hitlerite Germany, and that in the final settlement account will inevitably be taken of her own contribution to her liberation. The brutalities of Hitlerite domination are no new thing, and all peoples of territories in their grip have suffered from the worst form of Government by terror. What is new is that many of these territories are now being redeemed by the advancing armies of liberating powers, and that in their desperation the recoiling Hitlerite Huns are redoubling their ruthless cruelties. This is now evidenced with particular clearness by the monstrous crimes of the Hitlerites on the territory of the Soviet Union which is being liberated from Hitlerites and on French and Italian territory.

GERMAN WAR CRIMINALS TO BE TRIED

Accordingly, the aforesaid three Allied powers, speaking in the interests of the 32 United Nations, hereby solemnly declare and give full warning of their declaration as follows: At the time of the granting of any Armistice to any Government which may be set up in Germany, those German officers and men and members of the Nazi party who have been responsible for or have taken consenting part in the above atrocities, massacres and executions, will be sent back to countries in which

M. MOLOTOV

M. STALIN

After the conclusion of the Moscow Conference, Marshal Stalin gave a dinner at the Kremlin in honour of Mr. Anthony Eden and Mr. Cordell Hull. It was described by a guest as " real friends and comrades-in-arms sitting down together after good work done.'

their abominable deeds were done in order that they may be judged and punished according to the laws of these liberated countries and of the free Governments which will be erected therein. Lists will be compiled in all possible detail from all these countries, having regard especially to the invaded parts of the Soviet Union, to Poland and Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Greece including Crete and other islands, to Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, France and Italy. Thus the Germans who take part in wholesale shootings of Polish officers or in the execution of French, Dutch, Belgian or Norwegian hostages, or of Cretan peasants, or who have shared in slaughters inflicted on the people of Poland or in territories of the Soviet Union which are now being swept clear of the enemy, will know that they will be brought back to the scene of their crimes and judged on the spot by peoples whom they have outraged. Let those who have hitherto not imbued their hands with innocent blood beware, lest they join ranks of the guilty, for most assuredly the three Allied powers will pursue them to the uttermost ends of earth and will deliver them to accusers in order that justice may be done. The above declaration is without prejudice to the case of German criminals whose offences have no particular geographical location and who will be punished by joint decision of the Governments of the Allies."

At the end of a lesson in general knowledge, the teacher asked if any member of the class could tell her what he knew about Lord Woolton.

One boy got up. "He's the bloke what tells us to eat less of what we ain't got none of."

* * * * *

While on her rounds a woman collector for a local war-savings group aroused suspicions in the breast of a police constable, who questioned her and took her to the police station.

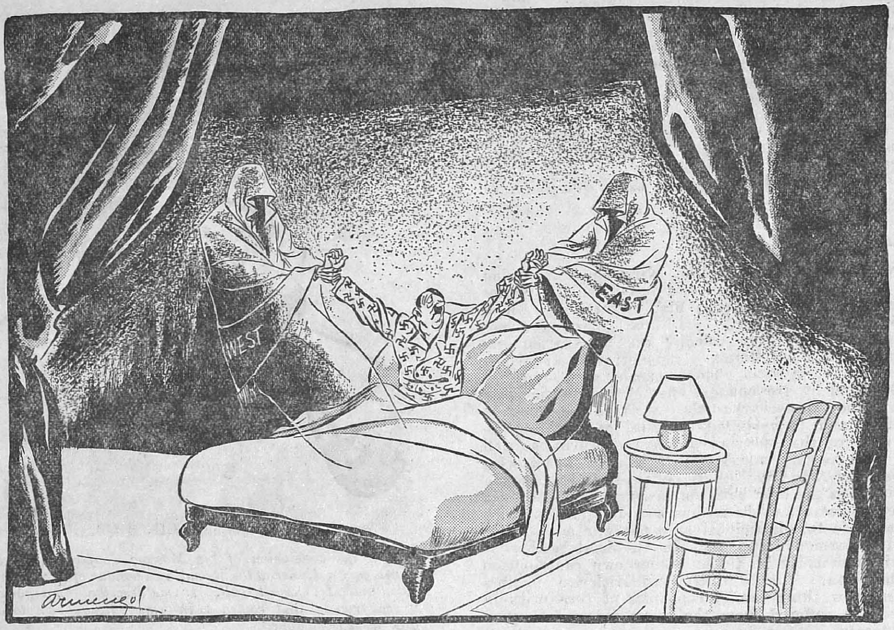
She was, of course, easily able to satisfy the police as to her identity and the national importance of her work, and was allowed to go.

Asked afterwards by a National Savings Committee official what she did while she was waiting at the police station, she replied: "I formed a savings group there, of course!" And she had!

* * * * *

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The article entitled "W.A.C. (I.)" by Mrs. Mona Hensman published in our issue of October 22 was a talk broadcast from All-India Radio Madras, on 11th October 1943.



NIGHTMARE

NEW HEADACHES FOR HITLER

RECENT RUSSIAN SUCCESSES

By LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR DOUGLAS BROWNRIGG

THE Russians have surprised their friends as well as their foes. The Press of the Allied countries had for the most part tacitly accepted as a fact that the beginning of the autumn rains had brought a halt to the great Russian summer offensive. German commentators—notably Sertorius—sent up paens of praise for those who had planned and carried out the strategic retreat to the Dnieper which had given the Germans all the advantages of position and communications, and had saddled the Russians with all the disadvantages of wrecked roads and railways in their rear and the obstacle of a swollen river in the path of their advance. The pause of about two days combined with the dearth of usual news from Moscow of scores of reoccupied inhabited places gave colour to the view that the end of a lap in the world war had been reached and that it had now become necessary to sit down and prepare for another.

Then the Russian reaper rolled on again and a lodgement was effected in three places on the west bank of the Dnieper (all of which have since been enlarged and consolidated) and a large-scale attack was launched in a new locality in the north. This northern thrust has put the Russians in possession of Nevel and automatically severed the important lateral railway running from Leningrad due south through Vitebsk and Mogilev to Gomel. The Russian High Command has shown the most amazing skill in their ability to shift the weight of their assault from one place to another and at the same time cut lateral rail communications so as to prevent German reinforcements being used anywhere effectively and in time.

But the Russian success has not ended in the crossing of the Dnieper and with the new assault in the north; the Kuban has at the same time been finally cleared of German troops and all the Caucasus regions returned into Russian keeping. Thus ends for ever Hitler's dream of oil from the east and already he is turning anxious eyes to the nearer source of supply at Ploesti, which is daily getting closer to the land fighting.

The Russian scene is brighter than the most optimistic could have hoped to see a few days ago. To the south, Hitler has not had to face quite such a desperate news, but even there the situation is far from satisfactory. The Fifth and Eighth Armies hold hands along a common front astride the leg of Italy and the tactical position which faces Kesselring is not unlike the strategic situation which faces his master. Kesselring has had to move one division from the west to the east to meet the Eighth Army thrust from Termoli and as soon as he has done so the Fifth Army has taken advantage of the weakened front to cross the Volturno.

Hasn't Hitler done something of the same sort in the strategic field? May not the moving of reserves the opposite way—from the east to the west—have lessened the strength of resistance against the Russians and thus materially helped towards the recent victories?

Similarity in the strategic and tactical fields can be carried a stage further. Kesselring has to remember all the time that the Allied command of the sea and the possession of Corsica may make another landing in his rear a very likely development. Hitler likewise has to bear in mind (he is not likely to forget it!) that as yet only the Fifth and Eighth Armies have landed in continental Europe, but that there are large forces in Britain and the Middle East waiting for their orders to follow in their footsteps or cut out a new route for themselves.

In theory it is easy for a nation acting on interior lines of communication to switch reserves from one front to another to meet hostile threats, but the problem becomes progressively less easy as internal communications become less efficient through loss by enemy action of engines, rolling stock and the destruction of permanent ways. Military writers often stress the advantages of fighting on interior lines, but in practice it is well to remember that those advantages tend to disappear if internal communications cannot bear the strain imposed on them while the enemy enjoys almost absolute freedom of external sea routes. The side acting on exterior lines then resembles a naughty child teasing a parrot in his cage by poking his fingers first through one side of the cage and then through the other, always being able to pull them out of harm's way before the parrot pecks.

"Does your uniform fit?" asked the sergeant.
"Perfectly," said the recruit.
"And your cap?"
"Perfectly."
"And your boots?"
"Perfectly."
"Lumme, man, you must be deformed."

ALLIED ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIA

By OSWALD DUTCH

IN his last budget speech on April 12, 1943, late Sir Kingsley Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer, declared that the war materials delivered by Great Britain to the Soviet Union in 21 months, i.e., from June 22, 1941, to March 1943, amounted to £170,000,000. Compare with this the figure of British exports to the Soviet Union during the whole of 1938 amounting to £6,500,000 only.

During the last six months British deliveries of war material to the Soviet Union have continued and by now considerably exceed the sum of £200,000,000.

There are two chief routes by which British war material reaches the Soviet Union, viz., the direct sea route from Great Britain through the North Cape to Russian Arctic ports or through the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal to the Persian Gulf from where goods are transported to Russia by the Iran railways.

For the first year after Hitler's invasion of Russia, the first route to the Arctic ports was preferable because the Persian railways and ports were not sufficiently developed to handle vast quantities of material and also because sending of transports round the Cape of Good Hope—for at that time the Mediterranean was practically impassable for our shipping—would have seriously handicapped the vital consideration of provisioning the British Army in the Middle East. From the autumn of 1942, however, the trans-Mediterranean route began to gain in importance. By almost superhuman efforts Great Britain managed the complete extension of the Persian railways and ports. Quite apart from sending thousands of skilled workmen to lengthen and improve the Persian railway lines and develop docks and wharves of Persian ports, Great Britain despatched a substantial number of her best locomotives to Persia. As early as November 10, 1943, thousands of goods wagons, belonging to the Southern Railway Company (of England) were on their way to Persia. Working day and night the men who made these wagons for Russia in Great Britain finished their work in ten weeks. In peacetime the same output would have been scheduled for about a year.

The working capacity of the Persian railways was literally multiplied from one month to another.

Before the Persian railways could work to capacity and the Mediterranean was safe for British convoys, most of British deliveries to Russia were despatched by the northern route. From June 1941 to the end of 1942, 19 enormous British convoys arrived at Murmansk. Some idea of the size of these convoys can be realized when we find that in the autumn of 1942 no fewer than 75 British warships were required as escort vessels.

It will be seen what tremendous quantities of war material have been delivered to Russia when we read these figures: Up to the end of October 1941, the following goods of British or American manufacture were unloaded at Murmansk; 3,052 aircraft; 4,084 tanks; 30,031 vehicles; 831,000 tons of machine tools, metals, ammunition, small arms and medical supplies, etc., besides great quantities of aviation spirit.

By the end of 1942, the figures for aeroplanes had risen to 5,600, for tanks to 6,200 and for vehicles to 85,000. Three thousand aeroplanes and nearly 4,000 tanks came from Great Britain herself.

Apart from this spate of munitions and material, the Soviet Union had special demands which were satisfied by Great Britain alone. Among these British deliveries are, for instance, 3,000,000 pairs of boots, 70,000,000 rounds of ammunition for small arms and 50,000 tons of rubber; the latter is of special value in view of Great Britain's own needs at that time.

A year ago, British deliveries to Russia were big enough to have enabled complete equipment of 20 armoured divisions.

As the Mediterranean became safe for British sea transport and the Allied armies in the south were rendered much more independent, so transports from Great Britain to the Soviet Union were transferred from the northern to southern route. A steady stream of all kinds of war materials now passes through the Straits of Gibraltar and the Suez Canal to the Persian Gulf where new railway lines, some of them double-tracked, have been completed and traverse Persia to a point where the Russian system starts. The railways can now cope with the greatest demands. This fact is of special significance because it ensures certain regularity in the despatch of goods to the Soviet Union and because the dangers are not nearly as great as they certainly were for the convoys to Murmansk.

The Commanders of the Red Army know that they may now rely not only on punctual despatch of Allied deliveries but also on their safe arrival at their Russian destinations. During the first year British convoys to Murmansk entailed heavy costs for the British Navy. Two British cruisers, 10 destroyers and 6 smaller warships were lost. The new convoys, however, which pass through the Mediterranean, do not run the same risks and, therefore, sea traffic between Great Britain and Russia has become more normal than would have been considered possible a year ago.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page 6*)

penetrated into Syria and Iraq in a successful manner and encircled Turkey and exercised extreme pressure to permit passage of troops through Asia Minor. More than all, Greek resistance allowed Russia time to organize and mobilize her forces to be ready for the German invasion which, but for it, might have come two months earlier—two extra months before winter which might have altered the course of the war in Russia.

Thus the freedom-loving nations of the world owe an enormous debt to Greece—a debt which, whatever the amounts contributed in response to the Greek King's appeal, would ever remain unredeemed.

FOR AUTHENTIC WAR NEWS—MORE RADIO SETS FOR VILLAGES

The Provincial Broadcasting Department has completed five years of existence Ninety-five sets in rural areas and twelve sets in municipal areas were installed during the year September 1943—August 1943. Up to 31st August 1943, 467 rural sets and 108 municipal sets were installed by the Department. Some municipalities and panchayat boards have installed sets without the aid of the Department. Out of the 83 municipalities in the Province, only eight municipalities have no radio sets, and it is hoped that they will fall in line with the rest.

In March 1941, with a view to carrying authentic news of the progress of war to the rural population, the Government sanctioned the payment of half the cost of 300 additional radio sets and half the maintenance charges of all rural sets for the duration of the war. These sets have been installed. There has been further demand for the installation of sets under the above arrangement and the Government have extended it to another 200 sets i.e. 500 sets. in all. Twenty-six more sets have been installed under the extended scheme and further installation has not been possible owing to non-availability of sets. The Government of India have since offered the supply of 568 radio sets free of cost for the development of community listening in this Province and the location of the sets is under consideration.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR HENRY POWNALL

CHIEF OF STAFF, SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR HENRY POWNALL.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL Sir Henry Royds Pownall, whose appointment as Chief of Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia Command, has been announced, has been regarded in recent years as one of the Army's discoveries. The facts are, however, that Pownall has crammed into his Army life a wealth of valuable and varied experience and that he always seemed to be heading for high posts. Time and again he has been picked out and promoted over the heads of men many years his senior.

Take a quick run through the career of this fine soldier. He spent the first eight years of his life in Japan where his father was helping to build some of Japan's principal railways. He came back from Japan to Rugby School in England. He went on to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and was eventually commissioned in the Royal Artillery.

At Woolwich he was among the first 15 students of his year. As his training progressed he passed through the Staff College and later went to the Imperial Defence College. His first foreign service was as a Subaltern in the Royal Horse Artillery at Lucknow. From 1906 until 1914 he served in both England and India.

Then came the war. He served in France and in Belgium, winning the D.S.O. and M.C. He commanded a Battery for two years during some of the fiercest fighting in France, and by 1917 he was a Brigade Major.

In the years that followed the war he was Brigade Major at the School of Artillery, and then from 1926 to 1929 he served at the Staff College, Camberley.

He was in the North-West Frontier in 1930–31. He returned to England to hold a variety of posts, until in 1940 he was made Chief of the General Staff, British Expeditionary Force, under Lord Gort. When France collapsed General Pownall returned to England to become the first Inspector-General of the Home Guard.

Few soldiers of his age (now 56) have held such a variety of responsible posts. It was not many months before he went across to Northern Ireland to command the British troops there, and then in May 1941 he was made Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

This appointment he relinquished on being chosen as Commander-in-Chief, Far East, at the end of 1941, when he went to Singapore. Early in 1942, he was appointed Chief of Staff to the Supreme Command in the South-West Pacific; in March 1942, Force Commander in Ceylon; and in March this year Commander-in-Chief, Persia-Iraq Command.

A small man, keen, alert and well groomed—a first-class soldier with a first-class brain. Behind those lively eyes of his, with their humorous twinkle, is a clear logical mind.

He is a Londoner. He is the grandson of an Archdeacon. He smokes a pipe in a friendly, ruminative sort of way. He likes fishing and golf, but these are just quiet occasional relaxations; he is one of Britain's most brilliant and active soldiers first and foremost. Men who served under him in his Artillery Brigade in India will tell you that he was one of the best Commanding Officers they had ever had.

MOBILE MAP PRODUCING UNITS

THE Army's own map making equipment was shown to a party of Indian journalists at a headquarters in Southern India recently.

One of the most pressing problems of modern war is the distribution to troops of the most up to date information and the mobile map producing units which follow the army and record on maps all that the ground and air reconnaissance patrols can see, very largely answers it.

The whole equipment which is carried in mobile vans, resembling railway carriages, and manned by personnel picked for their experience and knowledge of similar work in civil life was thoroughly explained to the members of the party.

The map life cycle starts with the observations of the surveyor on the ground or in the air. There is a very accurate framework, fixed by skilled observers with theodolites. Areas are allotted to observers, and plotted by the use of angles and triangles mathematically calculated from bearings given by the theodolites. Details in the area—trees, rivers, special features, heights—are afterwards filled in by men skilled at the job.

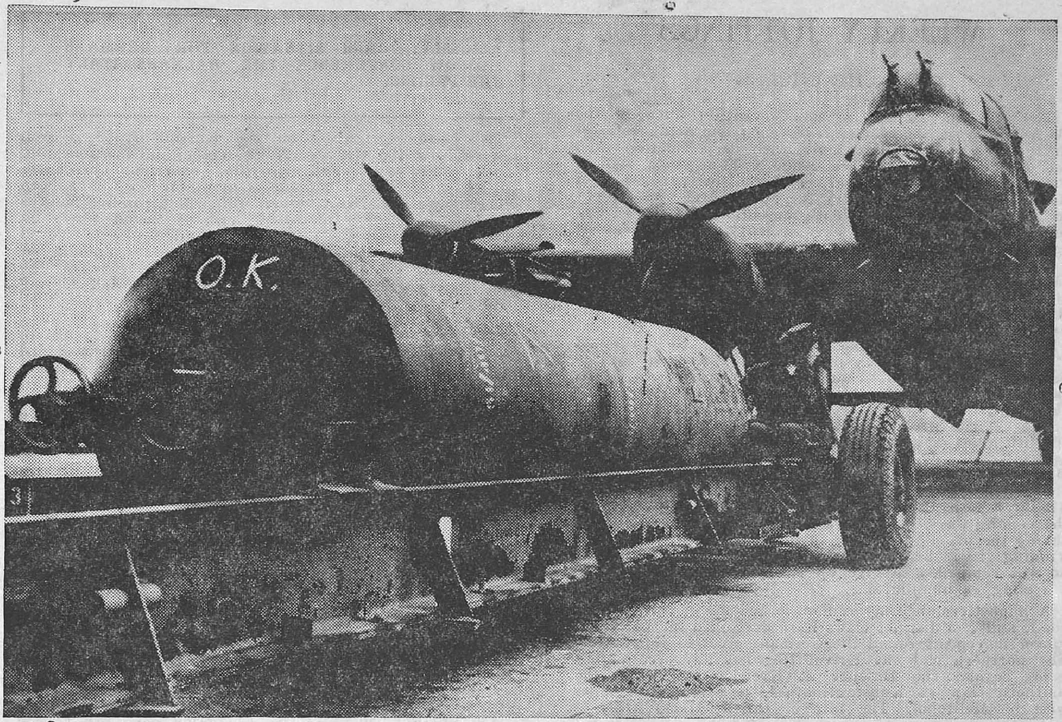
Once this hand-made map is complete, the mobile printing presses get to work and reproduce it, with as many copies as are required, and in colour. The process is exactly the same as the normal colour printing process produced in periodicals. But in the Army's units, the machinery is far more compact, and no space is wasted. In one vehicle the visitors watched a printing press turning out maps on the rotary system in the same way as their own newspapers are printed.

Most interesting is the building of a map from a number of photographs taken from the air. These photographs, perhaps a dozen, or two dozens, covering an area which a commander particularly wishes to have mapped are rephotographed into a composite picture. From this picture, a plate is made, and the photographic maps printed of it. The experts can even fill in the heights and contours on these maps, which are especially prized by the artillery.

Maps of importance have been produced by this system within 24 hours of receiving the photographs, still wet, from the developing rooms.

Chief among the advantages of this unit is of course its mobility. Powerful motors draw the several vans, and generators provide the electricity for the complicated machinery inside. The unit can be switched to any sector in the shortest space of time, and the fact that formation commanders and even junior officers can have in their hands a map of the whole of the country they are about to attack with all the information that goes with it, within 24 hours, is an advantage that cannot be measured.

The journalists were shown the full process from start to finish, and the British and Indian officers, N.C.O.s and men who supervise and work the apparatus explained the details. British printers from Glasgow and Manchester, former newspaper producers, worked side by side with Indian draughtsmen from offices all over India, and both Indian and British shared the responsibility for the finished product.



First official photographs to be released of the R.A.F.'s 8,000 lb. and 4,000 lb. bombs—the weight of which has been felt with devastating effect on enemy targets in Germany. Picture shows Close-up of an 8,000 lb. bomb in front of the Lancaster which will carry it on the night's raid.

NO PART OF REICH IS SAFE

BIRTHPLACE OF GERMAN FIGHTERS ATTACKED

By WING-COMMANDER L. V. FRASER

IN the air and on the ground, bomber forces of the Royal Air Force, Allied and Dominions air forces have beaten and battered the aircraft of the *Luftwaffe*. Now they are beating and battering them actually on their assembly belts.

The German defensive fighter belt stretching from Norway to the French-Swiss frontier is already dangerourly taut not only because of the area it must girdle, but also from the constant blows struck at it by the Allied fighter aircraft. It nears breaking point as a result of the recent attacks on the birthplace of fighters. The Germans, pounded incessantly by the Bomber Command of the Royal Air Force in the Ruhr in that oblong territory enclosed by Berlin, Rostock, Hamburg and Hanover, felt comparatively secure in South Germany.

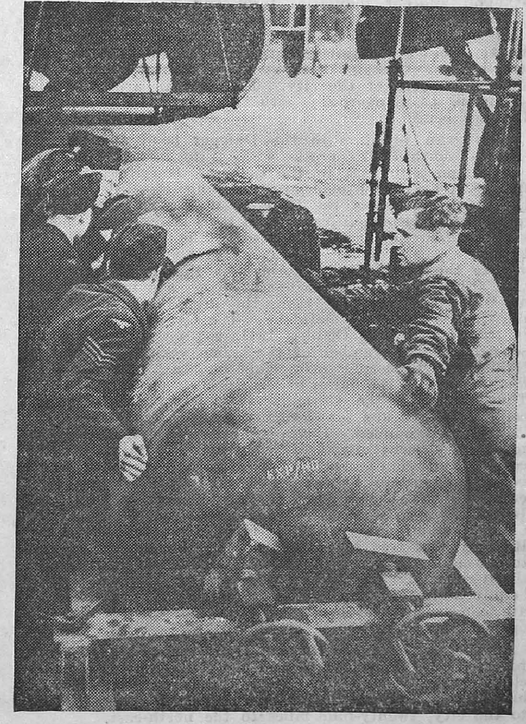
SUDDEN TURNOVER OF EVENTS

At Marienburg in East Prussia, at Regensburg, just north of Munich and at Wiener Neustadt, south of Vienna, great fighter assembly plants worked full blast. The sudden turnover of events in the Mediterranean opened up the South German plants to the aircraft based in the Middle East. On August 13 last, the Fockenwulf factory at Wiener Neustadt was struck (it has been hit twice) by United States Liberators and almost before the smoke had cleared from the target a terrific blow was struck at Regensburg.

No part of the Reich is safe. The effect of this raid is greater than a bare recital would indicate. It has rammed home the fact, that has only been hinted at hitherto by the Mediterranean-based raids on South Germany and the deep penetrations of Allied bombers based in Britain—that there is no nook and cranny in the Reich that is safe from the reach of Allied bombers.

While these recent smashing blows at production have been dealt by high long-flying precision bombing aircraft of the United States of America Air Force, the bomber aircraft of the Royal Air Force have engaged German defensive forces almost every night, applying the screw that one day will render them impotent.

In the first eight days of October, the Royal Air Force has dropped about 8,000 tons of high explosives and incendiary bombs on the German cities—Hagen, the new Ruhr target; Munich, Kassel, Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Hanover. These were major attacks. There were besides raids by smaller forces of bombers and by Mosquitoes.



Getting on 8,000 lb. bomb into position for loading into a giant bomber.

WEEKLY JOTTINGS

By "CHRONICLER"

RUSSIA: GRIM SITUATION FOR GERMANS—MOSCOW CONFERENCE—THE BALKANS—ITALY—THE PACIFIC.

The Russian armies are now revisiting some of the old familiar scenes which are of such endearing interest to their hearts as must move with deep emotion even the most hardened Soviet soldier. Two years ago in these very places which are hallowed by the sweat of Russian labour and industry the Soviet army went down on its knees, but later events, unfolding the mysterious resources of the republic, have shown that this was done only to take a surer aim. Melitopol and Dnieperpetrovesk, two proud centres of Russian industry and engineering, captured by the German army in the first few months of the invasion in 1941, have come back again into Russian hands after fierce and desperate struggle, the first on the 23rd and the second on the 25th October, while Krivoi Rog in the Dnieper bend, the pride of Russia in her iron resources, is now invested by the Soviet forces. Simultaneously the investment of Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, still continues, and the fall of this capital city and of Krivoi Rog is only a question of days. The process of wiping out the Germans from the Ukraine is now in the final and finishing stage, especially as what the Germans once boasted as the Dnieper line of defence has practically ceased to exist. The Dnieper line of defence may be tried next; but whatever resistance the German army might put up in the coming days, the Russian soldier is now undoubtedly having the proudest moment of his achievements, manfully winning back his country's precious possessions which he was compelled to give up two years ago almost with a feeling of humiliation.

A huge German army is now locked up in the Dnieper bend, and two distinct claws have developed in the Soviet pincer movement round the German forces in this sector. The northern claw at Krivoi Rog has advanced eighty miles beyond the Dnieper at Kremenchug, while the southern claw at Konstantinovesk, is seventy-two miles west of Melitopol. The fate of this encircled army is virtually sealed, unless it can establish contact with the German forces further south.

RUSSIA: GRIM SITUATION FOR GERMANS

It is, however, impossible that it can do this. The German army advancing from the south, from the Nogaisk steppes south of Zaporoshe in order to establish contact with the army locked up in the Dnieper bend, is compelled to beat a retreat almost amounting to a rout under the new blows from the Soviet tanks, and the Red Air Force is keeping up its pressure on the retreating enemy. The Russian forces have captured the town of Perekop, the western gateway to the Crimea, and Nikopol, another industrial town and key position on the Dnieper, with its huge manganese deposits, is threatened by Soviet thrusts from both sides of the river. Soviet forces are within twenty miles on the eastern side and other forces are bearing down from points thirty miles due north of the city. The German army in this sector is as dangerously situated as the one in the Dnieper bend.

This grim situation in the Dnieper bend and in the steppes south of Zaporoshe fades into insignificance in comparison with that in the Crimea. The Russian land forces west of Melitopol are sweeping forward towards the lower reaches of the Dnieper on the one hand, and on the other closing in rapidly on the Crimea. Genichesk, the last place of importance before the Crimea and the key to the narrow Isthmus carrying the Melitopol railway to the Crimea, was stormed by the Soviet army on the 30th October. The Russian troops are now fighting on the banks of the Sivash, the inland sea separating the Crimea from the mainland. The Germans have been in the Crimea from October 1941, beginning the seige of Sebastopol in November of the same year. This was a terrible seige lasting over eight months, and the city finally fell into the hands of the Germans on July 2, 1942. The seige cost the Germans very heavy, the Russian estimate of the loss for Germany being some 300,000 men, killed and wounded. During the heroic defence of the town its citizens organized communal life in rock catacombs, and reinforcements of men and supplies were being brought in by sea. The Russian army has now entered the Crimea, and captured Kakova, opposite Berislav. The Germans have begun evacuation of the Crimea, and its loss which is inevitable would leave the Russian fleet free to roam about in the Black Sea and to cause havoc in the Balkans. The German situation in the Crimea is very desperate, without any chance of help coming in from outside. As far as the Russians are concerned, the battle for the Crimea has already opened along the shores of Sivash.

In the north of the Russian front renewed battles are reported in White Russia, and the Red Army is steadily clearing the ground for a new thrust on Vitebsk, and has already captured Surash on the main highway leading to the city, twenty-four miles to the north-east.

The present situation on the Russian front is well described by the German News Agency in the following terms: "Physical and spiritual exertions and hardships, almost beyond the limits of endurance, have been suffered by the German human wall which for five months has been facing a tremendous mass of Soviet forces on the Russian steppes. Twelve thousand tanks destroyed in the southern sector of the front since the opening of the Russian summer offensive gives a picture of the gigantic struggle which has been unprecedented in the history of the war."

MOSCOW CONFERENCE

Russian advance has not only put the severest strain on German morale and resources, but, as a Stockholm report would have it, all the capitals of south-eastern Europe are frantically nervous expecting a complete Russian break-through into their territories. They have little confidence in the Germans' ability to hold the Soviet drive. Political quarters in those capitals have been anxiously awaiting the result of the Moscow Conference, hoping it will afford them some way out of the present dilemma between the Russian devil and the deep blue sea.

The Moscow Conference met on October 19, had twelve sittings and concluded on October 30, after having discussed measures to be taken to shorten the war against Germany and her satellites in Europe, and after having agreed on the establishment of an international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security. Decisions also were taken to create a basis for the closest military co-operation in the future between Britain, the United States and Russia. The most outstanding decision, however, related to the liberation of Austria from the Nazi yoke and her re-establishment as a free and independent state. A permanent Three-Power Committee is to be set up in London to deal with matters arising from the liberation of occupied Europe, and this would act on parallel lines with the Mediterranean Commission.

One of the most far-reaching decisions taken at Moscow has been the one relating to the restoration of Austria as an independent, sovereign state. Austria's position in Central Europe is so unique and strategical that an independent Austria alone can provide the necessary fulcrum for a contended and peaceful Commonwealth of Europe. If Austria has disappeared, said an eminent historian when Austrian independence was at stake on a previous occasion, we will have to discover her if the peace of Europe is to be assured. It was, therefore, a case of genuine historic perspective when the Moscow Conference decided on the restoration of Austria. No doubt the Allied troops, moving up the Italian peninsula, have as their aim the borders of Austria, and the decision taken at Moscow may be an appeal to Austria to assist in her own liberation. But this is only the immediate objective of the decision; it nevertheless goes deeper; it is an inspiration to Italy also to rally in greater strength round the banner of the Allies inasmuch as the *Anschluss* of 1938 placed the Italians in a horrid dilemma as it contradicted all the faith and confidence created in them by the Rome-Berlin Axis. The annexation of Austria deprived the cities of Northern Italy, without a word of warning, of the trade position which had been so painstakingly acquired for them in Austria. "Did our dead die in vain?" Strangers asked one another in cafes, in trains and even at street corners. "For why did we fight the war except to rid ourselves of great-power pressure on our northern frontier?" Restoration of Austria would, therefore, be an additional encouraging call to the Italians to rally on the side of the Allies. But it is even more than this. On it depends the peace of Central and South-east Europe. Here is what Mr. Churchill wrote at the time of the annexation of Austria by Germany:—

"But the seizure of Austria cannot be allowed to lie as it does. I pointed out on Monday in the House of Commons that the Nazi mastery of Vienna dominates all the roads, railways and rivers upon which the states of the Little Entente depend for their military cohesion and all the countries of Central and South-eastern Europe depend for their economic life. Vienna, the ancient capital of a once mighty empire, is the ganglion nerve-centre of the trade and communication of all the countries of the Danube basin and others besides. It would be possible for the Berlin Government, by an abuse of tolls and tariffs on the Danube and on the Austrian railways, to paralyse the trade of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia and to sever these countries irretrievably from one another, even without firing a shot. Czechoslovakia could, therefore, be strangled into unwilling submission."

(*Continued on page* 18)

KESSELRING EXPLAINS!

—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

(Continued from page 16)

THE BALKANS

Berlin is reported to be apprehensive of a Soviet landing in Bulgaria, synchronising with Allied landings in other Balkan countries. The Germans are, therefore, trying to organize the Balkans, but with little success, as Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania are refusing to send more troops beyond their own frontiers.

In Yugoslavia the Germans have landed at the southern end of the Dalmatian Coast. General Mihailovitch's forces in Yugoslavia have cut the Balgrade-Salonika railway south of Leskovats and have thus put out of commission for a considerable time the only line of supply to the Germans in Greece. Allied aircraft are assisting the Partisans in bombing German occupied places like Ston, Metkovic, Split and several other Dalmatian localities. In Montenegro in the fights between Partisans and Germans who were being assisted by the Chetniks the Chetnik leader General Djukanovic died of wounds received in the fighting. A regular form of Yugoslav administration has been reintroduced in large tracts of Yugoslavia liberated by General Mihailovitch's forces. In eastern Bosnia the railway personnel is working under the normal Yugoslav traffic regulations. The liberated part of Herzegovina is now linked up with Montenegro, four-fifths of which is said to be in Patriot hands. This territory is, in turn, linked up with large areas of eastern Bosnia which have been freed by General Mihailovitch. In the Croat Province of Zagorye N. of Zagreb, Yugoslav troops crossed the Hungarian frontier and are fighting on Hungarian territory.

Through the echoes of the grim struggle for liberation heard from Yugoslavia, is discernible, a confusing voice of party struggle going on in that State. This is really unfortunate, as few nations in Europe have so stoutly stood up against Nazi aggression as this small Yugoslav nation has done. Yugoslavia, in fact, provides an excellent sample of the New Order under which the Axis occupied countries are groaning. As in Poland, so in Yugoslavia the Nazis applied minutely and ruthlessly the policy of extermination and their detailed plan was for the establishment of a separate Croatia. For this purpose they tried to trap the Croat peasant leader, Dr. Matchek, but he refused and resisted the repeated offers and threats from the German High Command and their Yugoslav Quisling Pavelitch. To-day his moral leadership of the Croat masses is as unchallenged as ever. The Nazis, for their part, set up the Duke of Spoleto as Croatian King, with Pavelitch as the Nazi leader, but Croatia had to pay for its mock independence by ceding outright to Italy large tracts of the Dalmatian coast, including the port of Split, and to the Reich the major portion of Slovenia.

The next stage of suppression in Yugoslavia was to unleash bloodshed and terror against the Serbian population of Bosnia, and at the same time evicting large numbers of Serbs from southern and eastern Croatia. By August 1941, the German Command found it possible to set up in Belgrade a Serbian Quisling Government under General Milan Neditch, a distinguished soldier, who has had long Nazi sympathies. He is, of course, not to be mentioned in the same breath as Pavelitch, and his chief aim was to pacify the country and put an end to bloodshed and riprisals. But he is thoroughly opposed to the Yugoslavian idea of unity, and therefore equally opposed to the Government formed by General Simovitch in March 1941, and reformed under that brilliant scholar and acute political thinker Slobodan Jovanovitch in January 1942.

While Neditch decided to play the part of a Serbian Petain, there were many Serbs, especially in the army, who would not give in and who upheld their resistance against foreign aggression in the mountains. The man whose name will always be pre-eminently identified with that movement is Colonel Drazha Mihailovitch who rallied round him many unknown heroes. The exiled Government in the process of reconstruction assigned to him the portfolio of a non-existent Ministry of War. At home Mihailovitch adopted a norrowly Serb outlook, keeping the Croats at a distance and at the same time falling out with the Partisans or supporters of leftward tendencies. This was responsible for some time for the slander that he was a pro-Nazi, but later events have proved that he is as much a staunch liberator of Yugoslavia as any other leader.

The factions in Yugoslavia will disappear when the hour of liberation comes, and this will surely come when the Allied armies land on one side, probably on the Dalmatian Coast, and the Soviet forces enter by another door.

ITALY

Marshal Kesselring is reported to have been relieved of his command of the German forces on the Italian front and has been replaced by Von Wittinghoff. The Allied naval forces in the Mediterranean have carried out a flank attack from the sea, bombarding German communications near Minturno, on the Gulf of Gaeta. Minturno lies on the west coastal road and railway to Rome, known as the Appian Way. It is twenty-five miles north-west of the place where the inland road to Rome forks. General Alexander's troops in the central Appennines are now facing the core of the German defence system and General Alexander is massing his armies for a major blow at the mountain barriers before Rome. Fifteen miles inland from the Adriatic bridgehead, General Montgomery's forward troops have pushed forward and are now within two miles of the Trigno. They hold an eight-mile stretch of lateral Road on the Allied side of the river. Five to seven miles across the river valley is a mountain chain, the start of the German defence line running inland from Vasto. A general offensive is forecast by both sides; but heavy rain in most of the operational theatres hampers movement. The Fifth and the Eighth armies are, however, maintaining their steady though unspectacular progress and closing in slowly on the German mountain ramparts guarding the approaches to Rome.

THE PACIFIC

In the Pacific the latest event is the invasion of the Bougainville island by American forces on the 1st November. This is the largest and the last Japanese bastion in the Solomons. In combined ground, water and air movement, the Allied forces seized and occupied Empress Augusta Bay on the west coast. There has been very little opposition from the Japanese. The Allied forces are now in the rear of the enemy's position at Buinand in the Shortland and are athwart of his line of supply to that area. A group of Allied seaborne troops had landed earlier on Choisevl island and in the Treasury group and they are now advancing. Allied troops in south-west Pacific are now established on all the major strategical islands in the Solomons Archipelago. The latest leap forward has considerably shortened their striking distance from Rabaul, the big Japanese air and naval stronghold on the northern tip of New Britain.

ERNEST R. POPE in *Munich Playground* tells the following :—

The Gestapo raided a Jewish home. They confiscated all valuables, then examined the victim's papers. They picked up a suspicious-looking note-book. Turning to the first page, they read :—

"God preserve Adolf Hitler!"

Astonished, one of the Gestapo said: "What a strange Jew! So patriotic despite all persecution."

He turned the page. On it was written in large letters: "God preserve Joseph Goebbels!"

"This Jew must be O.K.," exclaimed the Gestapo.

They looked at page 3, which said: "God preserve Hermann Goering!"

"Too bad this loyal German is a Jew," the amazed Black Guards remarked.

Page 4 bore the inscription: "God preserve Heinrich Himmler!"

"We must make this fellow an honorary Aryan," the Gestapo burst out in unison. They turned to page 5. On it was written: "God preserve Ernst Roehm."

Below this was the pencilled note: "Preserved—June 30, 1934."

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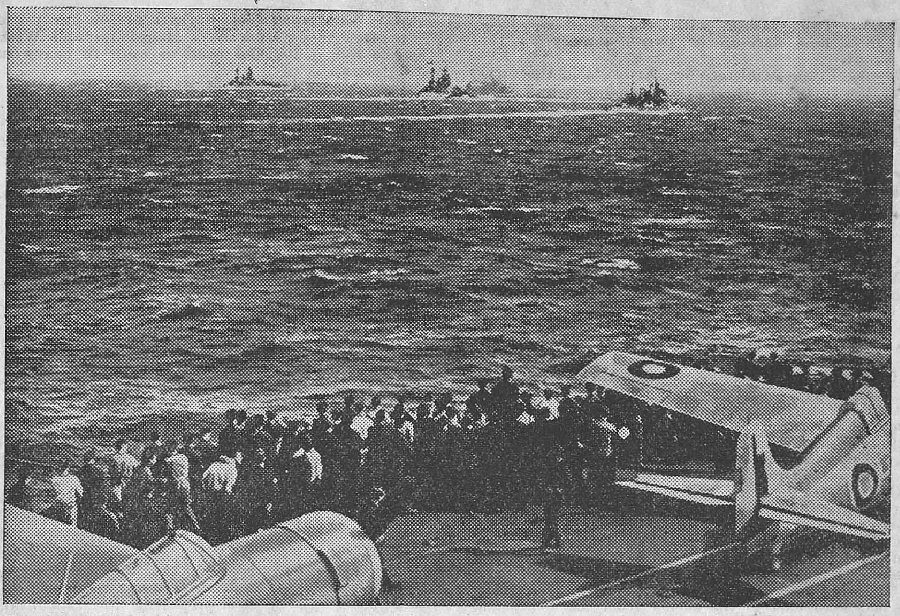
A pilot who had baled out in North Africa was coming down when he was amazed to see another man with his parachute going up.

"Hi-de-hi," he shouted, "what is happening to you?"

"It's all right, old man," came the reply. "Mine's a tent. It's windy down below."



BRITAIN'S BIG SHIPS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN—Picture made from the 23,000-ton British aircraft carrier H.M.S. Formidable *shows men of H.M.S.* Formidable *watching the 16" guns of the battleship* Rodney *firing. With her is the British Cruiser* Newfoundland *(nearest camera) and the 33,950-ton battleship* Nelson.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

28TH OCT.—The German Ministry of Home Security disclosed that 102,486 persons were killed in Royal Air Force raids on 12 German towns from April 1 to October 25.

Lord and Lady Linlithgow lunched with Their Majesties the King and Queen.

30TH OCT.—There was a short raid on London.

Hitler has appealed to the Hitler Youths to supply the army at the front with the best possible soldiers.

Mr. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary, made a statement on State control of industry.

31ST OCT.—A small number of enemy aircraft raided south-east of England and London area. Two enemy planes were destroyed.

The British Ambassador at United States said at a Press Conference that the war is approaching " its peak and climax."

1ST NOV.—Mosquitoes of Bomber Command attacked objectives in west Germany.

Eight German aircraft crossed the south coast of England and dropped bombs in widely separated points.

2ND NOV.—Enemy planes dropped high explosive bombs at a place in the Thames estuary and caused damage to property.

Allied bombers raided south-east Germany at midday.

More and more Germans are being executed for defeatism, reports the Berlin correspondent of *Social Democrater*, states a Stockholm message.

3RD NOV.—There was a short raid on London.

The largest force ever of American heavy bombers were over north-west Germany.

Serious disturbances inside Germany and a state of emergency in Berlin and other 40 towns are reported by the Malmo correspondent of *Sevenska Dagblardet*.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

28TH OCT.—United States War Secretary, Mr. Henry L. Stimson, made a general statement on the war situation.

Leader of the United Mine Workers John L. Louis rejected the compromise plan by the War Labour Board for settling the wage dispute of United States coal miners.

United States Ordnance output has increased about 150,000 per cent in the past three years according to Brigadier General Hermon Stafford, Chief of the Production Department of the United States Army Ordnance Department.

31ST OCT.—Over a lakh and a half coal mine workers are on strike in United States. President Roosevelt has given a warning to them.

1ST NOV.—President Roosevelt has taken over the coal mines. He has called on every miner to be at his post on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Roosevelt in the longest special message he has ever sent to it, urged the Congress to continue and increase the food subsidy programme to ensure an adequate supply of food and prevent inflation.

2ND NOV.—President Roosevelt has issued a proclamation calling for the registration for the American armed forces of United States citizens in Britain or elsewhere abroad.

3RD NOV.—The coal crisis continued.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

28TH OCT.—An announcement issued from 10, Downing street, yesterday states that the Viceroy has appointed with the approval of the Prime Minister Sir Archibald Rowlands, at present permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Aircraft Production with the title of Adviser to the Viceroy on War Administration.

Pakokku and Toungoo were heavily bombed by 10th United States Airforce bombers.

29TH OCT.—The Royal Air Force Wellington bombers raided the railway junction of Myingyan and Adya. An enemy-occupied village in Chin Hills was dive-bombed and machine-gunned.

31ST OCT.—Allied bombers attacked Port Blair in Andamans, enemy-occupied villages in Arakan, Nyingyan and Onbauk in Burma.

1ST NOV.—It is revealed that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief General Sir Claude Auchinleck recently visited Indian and British troops in the forward areas of Assam-Burma front.

The 12th session of the National Defence Council opened this morning at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi. The food situation was considered. His Excellency the Viceroy apprised the Council of the results of his recent visit to Bengal.

The appointment of Major-General Sir Iven Giffard Mackay as Australian High Commissioner for India was officially announced.

2ND NOV.—Two clashes with the Japanese have occurred in a new flare-up of patrol activity on the Arakon Front.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, told the Commons that the report on the Burmese civil administration during Japanese invasion had been completed.

3RD NOV.—Lieutenant-General A. G. O. M. Mayne is appointed to be the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, India.

Enemy occupied villages in forward positions in Burma were attacked. Liberators bombed Rangoon and Prome.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

28TH OCT.—Soviet troops are now more than 45 miles west of Melitapol. General Manstein's shattered forces are falling back all along the southern Russian Front.

It is understood that agreement has been reached in Moscow talks.

Mr. Antony Eden had a second meeting with Marshal Stalin.

Mrs. Churchill's Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund has reached over four million sterling.

29TH OCT.—President Roosevelt announced that agreement has been reached at the Moscow Conference. It now only remained, he added, to affix signatures.

German Front has been torn to shreds. Fighting in the far west of Melitopol approached Dnieper.

30TH OCT.—Experts work 16 hours a day to draft the final agreements to be signed by the representatives of the Powers in Moscow.

31ST OCT.—The Red Army closed in on the German forces in the Crimea, Genichesk, the last place of importance before the Crimea was stormed.

1ST NOV.—Perekop the western gateway to the Crimea and the last land exit to the enemy from the Peninsula was captured. The Russians have cut the German retreat road from the Crimea. Routed Germans are fleeing in disorder. Nazi troops are being rushed to Russia from Italy.

A communique regarding the Moscow Tripartite Conference has been issued.

2ND NOV.—Kakova was captured. Two powerful Russian armies were racing towards Kherson to cut off the remnants of General Von Manstein's routed divisions. The Germans were on the run in their greatest retreat of this war.

3RD NOV.—Heavy fighting was reported at northern entrances to the Crimea east of Kherson and in the Dnieper bend. Russian tanks reached the defensive ring around Krivoi Rog.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

28TH OCT.—Allied forces captured Torella, Castel Mauro, Montemitro, Montefalcone and Mafalda.

An agreement consisting of some 40 articles covering the economic and financial terms required of Italy, was signed on October 1, between the Allies and the Badoglio Government, it was revealed in Washington.

29TH OCT.—Vichy radio stated that Marshal Kesselring has been relieved of his command in South Italy and replaced by General Von Wittinghoff.

Molise was captured. Teaon road junction is threatened.

30TH OCT.—Allied advance continued under difficult conditions. Pietravairano and Mondragone were occupied.

31ST OCT.—The Germans were cleared out of Roccavivia and the Fifth Army captured Nocelleto and Ailano.

1ST NOV.—Frosolone, Cantalupo, Teano and Machhiagodena were captured. Battles were in full swing between the coast of Tyrrhenian sea and Volturno. The Fifth and Eighth Armies made important progress.

2ND NOV.—The Fifth Army captured Casanova and most of the Matese range which dominates the road to Isernia. The Allies were within artillery range of Venafao.

It is stated that Marshal Badoglio told King Victor Emmanuel on Monday that he could not form a representative Government as long as the King remained in power.

3RD NOV.—The Fifth Army has occupied Massico ridge. It launched an attack on the coastal sector of the Gulf of Gaeta. Allies occupied Carolina and the San Groce ridge.

German S.S. Police were rushed to Vienna and other big cities in Austria where the Germans fear open revolt.

Wienr Neustadt was bombed.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

29TH OCT.—A naval engagement took place off the North Breton coast of France.

31ST OCT.—The Royal Air Force over northern France destroyed two German aircraft. The airfield at Lessay was attacked.

1ST NOV.—German offensive operations against 50,000 Greek guerillas in the mountainous area between Thessaly and Epirus began.

Sixty thousand Greek workers are so far estimated to have been taken from East Macedonia and West Thrace by the Bulgarians and sent to work in heavy industries in Austria.

The Hungarian General Staff has ordered all Hungarian troops in South Russia to return to Hungary. About one lakh of men are expected to withdraw.

2ND NOV.—Royal Air Force fighters penetrated to Paris area and destroyed two German aircraft besides shooting up several trains.

3RD NOV.—German airfields at Saint Andre De Leure were bombed.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

1ST NOV.—President Ismet Inenu of Turkey at the opening of the Turkish Parliament said "Our ideal is to strengthen the foundations of civilisation, based on liberty and independence of nations. We wish the victors in this war to be Civilisation and Humanity."

The Prime Minister of Persia, Mr. Aley Soheily thanked Britain, Russia and United States for the help they had given in sending wheat to Persia.

2ND NOV.—The British Ambassador at Ankara, Sir Knatchbull Huggesson, and the Turkish Foreign Minister, M. Menemencioglu have left for discussion at Cairo with Mr. Eden.

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THE FAR EAST

28TH OCT.—Allied forces landed on Mono and Stirling islands.

29TH OCT.—It is reported that Japanese merchants and other civilians in Canton, Hongkong, Swatow, Amoy and other places are preparing for evacuation. The Chinese Army spokesman said that the Japanese grip on East Cmina was weakening.

The Navy Secretary, Colonel F. Knox said that American submarines operating in the Pacific and Far Eastern Waters have sunk ten Japanese merchantmen and damaged four others.

30TH OCT.—Allied paratroops landed on the Choiseul islands in the Solomons.

31ST OCT.—Fighting in China continued in the West bank of Salween river, in western Chekiang and Hupeh. The Japanese suffered heavy casualties.

President Roosevelt and Mr. Henry Stimson, Secretary for War sent greetings to President Chiang Kai-shek on his 56th birthday.

Kavieng in New Guinea was bombed. Eleven Jap craft were strafed off Choiseul. It is reported that 45 Japanese planes were destroyed at Rabaul.

2ND NOV.—The American forces have invaded Bougainville island, the largest and the last Japanese bastion in the Solomon Islands. Empress Augusta Bay on the west coast was occupied.

3RD NOV.—There was a clash between the Chinese troops, guarding the new supply route to China from Assam and the Japanese.

LAST MONTH . . .

1ST OCT.—The Fifth Army entered Naples.

3RD OCT.—Finschhafen, a strong Jap air base in New Guinea, was captured by Allies.

7TH OCT.—Nevel, an important strategic centre in Russia, was occupied by the Russians.

Lord Louis Mountbatten arrived in India.

8TH OCT.—Soviet Forces occupied Taman.

11TH OCT.—Madras had a short air alert.

13TH OCT.—Italy declared war on Germany.

14TH OCT.—The Red Army captured Zaporozhe.

15TH OCT.—Lieut.-Genl. Sir H. Royds Pownall was appointed Chief of Staff to South-East Asia Command.

19TH OCT.—Moscow Tripartite Conference began.

23RD OCT.—Russians captured the key-position Melitopol.

25TH OCT.—Dnepropetrovsk, great industrial centre, fell into Russian hands.

30TH OCT.—The Moscow Conference concluded.

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